

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
PART 1 - EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

B-4119

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certification will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Use typewriter or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of property: PARAGON FLOUR MILLS
Address of property: 800 Fawn Street
City Baltimore County -- State Maryland Zip Code 21230
Name of historic district: N.A.

☐ National Register district ☐ certified state or local district ☐ potential historic district

2. Check nature of request:

- ☐ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for the purpose of rehabilitation.
☐ certification that the structure or building and, where appropriate, the land area on which such a structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes.
☐ certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.
☒ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.
☐ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.
☐ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Authorized project contact:

Name Hord, Coplan, Macht, Inc./Edward M. Hord Title Architect
Street 2526 St. Paul Street City Baltimore
State Maryland Zip 21218 Telephone Number (during day): 301-467-7011

4. Owner:

Name H & B Investments
Street 309 North Calvert Street City Baltimore
State Maryland Zip 21202 Telephone Number (during day): 301-539-7529

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the above-named property.

Owner's Signature Hugo B. Kuntz Date 7/3/86
Hugo B. Kuntz, Partner
Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number [REDACTED]

NPS Office Use Only

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Preservation Certification Application - Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

- ☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.
☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.
☐ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary Determinations:

- ☐ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
☐ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.
☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.
☐ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

Date

National Park Service Authorized Signature

National Park Service Office

HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION-
PART 1

NPS Office Use Only B-4119
Project Number:

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS
Property Name
800 Fawn Street
Property Address
B Investments - [redacted]
Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

5. Description of physical appearance:

The Paragon Flour Mills is located just east of the Jones Falls Expressway, between the Inner Harbor and Little Italy. It fronts on President Street and Fawn Street. The eastern side elevation is along Slemmers Alley. Much of the surrounding land to the west and south has been cleared for expressway construction or parking lots. The small ethnic residential section, known as Little Italy, is adjacent to the structures, just to the east. A few late warehouse type structures are located just north of the buildings.

The eastern building of this two building industrial group, is at the northwest corner of Fawn Street and Slemmers Alley. It is five stories high and five bays wide along the Fawn Street facade. The building is built of common bond brick with a granite first floor facade. (continued)

Date of Construction: c.1868 & 1889 Source of Date: Maps, Land Records, Physical Evidence

Date(s) of Alteration(s): c. 1940 & later

Has building been moved? ☐ yes ☒ no. If so, when? _____

Statement of significance:

The Paragon Flour Mills at Fawn Street and President Street is significant as the last remaining flour or grain mill at Baltimore's waterfront. Although several of the mills of the Jones Falls Valley were originally built as grain mills, these buildings are located in nineteenth century mill towns, far from Baltimore's harbor. Baltimore was a leading flour manufacturing center in the mid-nineteenth century. This building relates to this important business that influenced the growth of the city. The building was later used for other important manufacturing concerns including: furniture manufacturing, office equipment and steel and tin products. It is proposed to be rehabilitated for a new use more in keeping with activities around the Inner Harbor, as an active part in Baltimore's re-development. (continued)

Photographs and maps.

Attach photographs and maps to application.

Continuation sheets attached: ☒ yes ☐ no

CONTINUATION SHEET

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

NPS Office Use Only

Property Name

800 Fawn Street

Property Address

- H & B Investments

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Project Number:

Description (continued)

Seven openings at the first floor are divided by granite pilasters with bevelled edges and upper corners. Some have closed wood doors, one is boarded, another has been converted into a loading dock with cinder block infill at the base, and two are windows. A faded painted wall sign at the top of the granite base displays: "Seevers and Anderson Paragon Flour Mills." A simple granite projection acting as a cornice completes the first floor of the front facade.

The upper floors feature a regular arrangement of windows. A single six over six window survives, others have been altered or boarded. The windows have slightly splayed brick flat arches and granite sills. The central opening on the second floor has double loading wood doors instead of a window. This larger opening is surmounted by a cantilevered wood support for a block and tackle. Iron panels on the sides of this loading door display the date, 1868. Hardware, apparently used for fire shutters is extant at window openings.

Other upper floor details include: star shaped tying rods, a painted wall sign between the third and fourth floors displaying, "Furniture Manufacturing Company", a slightly corbelled cornice with roof gutter, a fire escape along the eastern windows, and an elevator shaft which rises above the roof line at the western end of the facade.

The side elevation of the building on Slemmers Alley reveals the sloped roof. It features an irregular arrangement of window openings. Many of the windows have flat brick arches, but others feature segmental arches of double or triple header brick. The rear section of the eastern elevation is slightly recessed. This rear section features a large elegant semi-elliptical archway opening similar to Groffs Mill (c. 1791) and common in British mill buildings. On the second floor there is a loading door and a block and tackle apparatus above the third floor level. A chimney rises above the walls of this rear section of the side elevation.
(continued)

B-4119

CONTINUATION SHEET

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS

Property Name
800 Fawn StreetHistoric Preservation
Certification Application

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

Property Address
H & B Investments - [REDACTED]

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Description (continued)

The western building fronts on President Street. It is also five stories high and five bays wide, built of common bond brick. It features large segmentally arched openings throughout. The first floor openings include a single wood panelled door entrance. Other openings are filled with glass block. The northern ground level opening has been converted into a loading dock. It is capped by a steel lintel.

The windows have been altered in a variety of manners. Many have been boarded and others have been changed to industrial style metal frame windows made up of twenty small panes with a central six pane hopper window. The original window style is still extant on the fifth floor level. Each segmentally arched opening is filled with double four over four windows, divided by a heavy wood mullion. Painted wall signs on the upper floors display: "Tin Can Specialties, Steel Products." A fire escape at the corner along Fawn Street wraps around to the corner second floor window. A brick parapet at the northern edge of the building originally hid a water tank.

The Fawn Street elevation of the building is three bays wide plus an additional bay at the eastern edge featuring small segmentally arched single pane windows. The other window openings are similar to the President Street facade. A fire escape runs along the corner bay at President Street. First floor openings have been altered with glass block, and a later garage door opening has a steel lintel.

The rear elevation of the entire two building group features an irregular arrangement of window openings. The first floor level abuts adjoining structures. A recession distinguishes the original eastern building from the western addition. The large parapet, which originally hid a water tank, dominates the President Street corner of the rear.

CONTINUATION SHEET

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS
Property Name
800 Fawn Street
Property Address
H & B Investments - [REDACTED]
Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

Significance (continued)

In 1867, William R. Seevers and George F. Anderson bought the Paragon Flour Mills. The eastern building of the structures at President and Fawn Streets was built at that time. The structure is visible on the Sacshe Bird's Eye View of 1869 and is listed in contemporary Baltimore City Business Directories under the heading "Mills", for both Seevers and Anderson and Paragon Flour Mills. Iron panels on the door jambs of the second floor loading doors display the date 1868.

Little is known about George F. Anderson, but there is a short biography of William R. Seevers in the Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Seevers was born in 1815 in Frederick County, Virginia. He held some governmental posts in Virginia including deputy sheriff of Frederick and Clark counties, and the Post Master of Summits Point, Virginia. In 1851, he moved to Baltimore and was involved in a cotton brokerage business. He remained in that line of work until 1867 when he purchased the flour mill in partnership with George F. Anderson. The biography referred to Seevers as "a successful and reliable businessman and a useful and estimable citizen".

Baltimore has a long history as a leading flour manufacturing city. Flour manufacturing was important to the city's growth in the late 1700's when France and Great Britain were at war. The war interrupted commerce to the West Indies leaving them in need of food and lumber, while the supply of sugar to Europe was curtailed. Baltimore merchants used the opportunity to ship flour and other goods such as wheat, meat products and lumber to the West Indies in return for sugar and cash. The sugar was exported to Europe in return for manufactured goods and cash. As early as 1800, 26,000 barrels of flour was exported by Baltimore merchants. From this early date, flour manufacturing remained an important business concern for Baltimore into the mid-nineteenth century. According to Howard's Monumental City (1873), most of the flour mills were located along streams and run by water power. The Paragon Flour Mills were, however, located near Baltimore's harbor to take advantage of shipping opportunities. The company boasted that its flour was equal if not superior to any in the state. It produced \$400,00 worth of flour and other products yearly in the early 1870's. (continued)

CONTINUATION SHEET

B-4119

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS

Property Name

800 Fawn Street

Property Address

H & B Investments - [REDACTED]

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number: [REDACTED]

Significance (continued)

The Paragon Flour Mills represent the last of many steam mills that dotted the inner, original harbor of Baltimore. A number of pioneers tried flour and plaster grinding by steam when most mills relied on water power or wind. As early as 1789, Englehart Cruse demonstrated a crude engine at the southeast corner of Charles and Pratt Street when that location was a waterfront lot. More successful attempts were made in 1813 at the end of a wharf on Commerce Street by Charles Gwinn and in 1815 by the firm of Phenix and McEldery on McEldery's Wharf, and in 1816 by George Stiles and Son "near the Glass House" on Great Hughes Street (now Key Highway).

In 1818, Isaac McKim imported a powerful 60 hp Boulton and Watt engine to run a fully automated Oliver Evans type mill on Smith's Wharf, the site of the present National Aquarium. The Scottish traveler John M. Duncan was much impressed and described the mill at length in his 1823 book. Throughout the 19th century, steam mills, large and small, clustered the piers, grinding grain brought in on farm wagons or by small sailing vessels from the Eastern Shore. In the 1880 census of manufactures, the seven city steam mills outproduced their 50 rural water-powered rivals located in surrounding Baltimore County by a figure of 122,448 barrels to 68,803. In 1882, the old McKim Mill site was used for a mostly new installation, C. A. Gambrill's all-roller mill, the largest on the Eastern Seaboard, capable of putting out 500 barrels per diem, almost five times the output of the Paragon Mill. The overwhelming productivity of this Gambrill "Mill-B" probably helped undermine SeEVERS and Anderson, although the Fawn Street company ordered roller equipment early in 1883.

At one time, Pier Six made a 90-degree bend to the east, providing an area of filled land called "the City Block" where a number of industries flourished, including the Abbott Mill of 1853, another rival of the Paragon Mill. The Abbott Mill was last known as the Valentine Mill and is extinct. (continued)

CONTINUATION SHEET

B-4119

7

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS

Property Name

800 Fawn Street

Property Address

H & B Investments - [REDACTED]

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

Significance (continued)

Strangely enough, Paragon Mill, a remarkable survivor of steam milling on a small scale, is only a half-block from the windmill symbol depicted at the southwest corner of the present Albemarle and Fawn Streets on Folie's 1792 map of Baltimore. That white wooden windmill was also depicted in George Beck's 1796 painting, "Baltimore From Howard's Hill".

In spite of its location in the manufacturing and freight-forwarding district of a booming 19th century city, Paragon Mill has some similarities to country mills. There is the usual row of loading doors without balconies or porches, and inside are massive supporting posts separated from the equally massive horizontal girts by thick and neatly shaped wooden bolsters; the same kind of framing can be seen in Groff's Mill at Owings Mills (MHT Site No. BA 52) and in Brown's Wharf Warehouse in Fells Point. The elegant semi-elliptical archway opening on the Slemmers Alley entrance is much like an arch found inside Groff's Mill (c. 1791) and similar to British buildings shown in Brian Bracegirdle's Archaeology of the Industrial Revolution (Cranbury, N. J., 1973).

The eastern building of the Paragon Flour Mills was apparently built as a flour mill around 1868. Iron panels at the second story loading door display this date. The building has to date from before 1869, since it appears in the Sachse Bird's Eye View. With its gabled roof, granite base and small windows (apparently six over six), the building is representative of early manufacturing structures, before the advent of either highly styled loft type structures or more modern steel construction which allowed for large industrial windows. It is the last surviving mill type structure near Baltimore's waterfront and one of the oldest manufacturing structures at the waterfront. Only at Fell's Point are there earlier waterfront industrial buildings, and many of them were built as warehouses. The granite facade of this structure is the only one of its kind remaining in Baltimore City. (continued)

1163

CONTINUATION SHEET

B-4119

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS
Property Name
800 Fawn Street
Property Address
H & B Investments - [REDACTED]
Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

Significance (continued)

By the late 1880's, industrialization was in full swing in Baltimore, and the Paragon Flour Mills buildings on President and Fawn Streets were sold to a furniture manufacturing enterprise. The Reliable Furniture Manufacturing Company which occupied these buildings from 1889 to 1928 was established as a stock company under the direction of J. George and George G. Mohlehenrich. According to an advertisement in Blum's History of the Jews of Baltimore, the company produced a complete line of buffets, sideboards, china closets and dressers. Its business extended over the United States, exhibiting goods at the New York Furniture Exchange and the Manufacturers Exhibition Building in Chicago. The advertisement states, "The Reliable Furniture Manufacturing Company manufactures and sells medium and high-grade furniture and its line stands high in the opinion of expert furniture buyers".

The western building was apparently built by the Reliable Furniture Manufacturing Company around 1889 or the early 1900's. Both buildings appear in a 1910 advertisement of the Reliable Furniture Manufacturing Company. They look similar to today's appearance. This western structure is more characteristic of turn of the century industrial design. The windows are larger and set into segmental arches. It also has a flat rather than a gabled roof.

In 1928, the Williamson Brothers Veneer Company purchased the former buildings of the Reliable Furniture Manufacturing Company. In 1936, the buildings were occupied by Reliable Case Goods Company. Sometime after 1936, the building was purchased by the Steel and Tin Products Company. In 1957, American Office Equipment Company, Inc. purchased the building from Steel and Tin Products Company, Inc. and used the building as a furniture warehouse. In 1982, Hugo and Benjamin Kuntz purchased the building from American Office. The building is currently being used as a furniture warehouse. (continued)

CONTINUATION SHEET

B-4119

(9)

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS

Property Name

800 Fawn Street

Property Address

H & B Investments - [REDACTED]

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

Significance (continued)

The Paragon Flour Mills is one of five historically significant structures built prior to 1870 which remain on the Jones Falls river (or President Street) in the Inner Harbor area. Three of these structures, the Flag House, the Carroll Mansion and the Shot Tower, are National Register Landmarks. The President Street Station has been researched and, according to CHAP, it could probably be individually listed on the National Register if the application were submitted. These five structures represent an important sampling of building types: the Flag House and Carroll Mansion represent housing, the Shot Tower represents specialized manufacturing and the President Street Station represents public structures. The Paragon Flour Mills is one of the last surviving manufacturing structures of its kind in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. The area was, in the mid-1800's, predominately devoted to manufacturing and shipping. National Register listings for this structure will provide needed tax incentives which will allow for a sympathetic rehabilitation of this important building in keeping with other buildings in the area.

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS

CONTINUATION SHEET

NPS Office Use Only

Property Name

800 Fawn Street

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

Project Number:

Property Address

H & B Investments - [REDACTED]

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

SELECTED QUOTES

"Seevers & Anderson of Baltimore, Md., are increasing their number of Stevens' Rolls to be supplied by the sole manufacturers, the John T. Noyes Mfg. Co. of Buffalo, N.Y."

-American Miller, 11 (January 1883): 29.

"W. R. Seevers, of the Seevers & Anderson Milling Co., of Baltimore, Md., is dead."

-American Miller, 12 (September 1, 1884): 487.

Milling Machines That Must Be Sold

"Having disposed of the mill building, for other purposes, we offer the following machines for what we can get for them: One Cosgrove Combination Mill, built by John T. Noye Mfg. Co., with five pairs of 9 x 24 Stevens Rolls, a complete roller mill in itself, with scalpers, etc.; one double Stevens Bran Roll, two pair 9 x 24....

Seevers & Anderson Milling Co.
President and Fawn Streets,
Baltimore, Md."

-American Miller, 16 (January 1, 1888): 60.

(continued)

CONTINUATION SHEET

PARAGON FLOUR MILLS

Historic Preservation
Certification Application

NPS Office Use Only

B-4119

Property Name

800 Fawn Street

Property Address

H & B Investments - [REDACTED]

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Project Number:

This sheet: ☒ continues Part 1 ☐ continues Part 2 ☐ amends Project.

NPS Project Number: _____

SELECTED QUOTES (continued)

The "Celebrated Paragon Flour Mills" at the corner of President and Fawn Streets was an advertiser in the 1877 Atlas of Baltimore, County, Maryland by G. M. Hopkins. The mill advertised "Our Best Peabody, Champion, President, Paragon, Telegraph, Challenge, Fawn" brands.

The 1880 census of manufacturers listed \$50,000 capital investment, 19 employees, 6 run of millstones, 585 bu/diem maximum output, 3 boilers, and 2 engines that developed 160 horse power. Annual output was 23,162 bbl of flour and 1.3 million pounds of feed (total value \$182,000). It had been the Wilson & Son hominy and feed mill in the 1851 Matchett city directory.

Owner's Signature

Hugh R. [Signature]

Date

7/3/86

NPS Office Use Only

- ☐ The National Park Service has determined that these project amendments meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."
- ☐ The National Park Service has determined that these project amendments do not meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

Date

National Park Service Authorized Signature

National Park Service Office

CARROLL MANSION

LOMBARD STREET

FLAG HOUSE

PRATT STREET

STILES STREET

FAWN STREET

EASTERN AVENUE

FLEET ST

PRESIDENT STREET STATION

JONES FALLS

PIER 6

B-4119 Paragon Flour mill

B-4119

Paragon Flour Mills

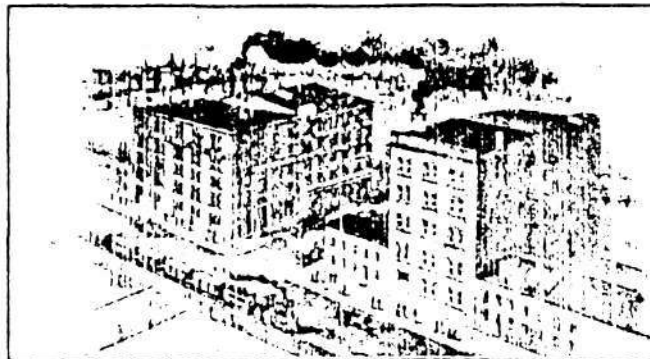
Illustration from *The Jews of Baltimore* by Isadore Blum, p. 212.

THE RELIABLE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Manufacturers of
Medium and High Grade Furniture

OFFICES

303 AND 305 PRESIDENT STREET
BALTIMORE, MD.



FACTORY OF THE RELIABLE FURNITURE MFG. CO.

The Reliable Furniture Manufacturing Company was established in 1889 as a stock company, with J. Geo. Mohlhenrich president and Mr. Geo. G. Mohlhenrich secretary, at President and Fawn Streets, where it maintains an immense factory, equipped with every facility for the furniture manufacturing business. It has warehouses on President Street and Canton Avenue and at 909-911 East Pratt Street, with offices at 303 and 305 President Street. This company manufactures a complete line of buffets, sideboards, china closets, dressers and chiffoniers, and has a floor space capacity of 30,000 square feet. Its business extends over the United States, and besides its local show stores it maintains exhibits at the New York Furniture Exchange, New York City; Neillsville, Wis., and Manufacturers' Exhibition Building, Chicago, Ill. The Reliable Furniture Manufacturing Company manufactures and sells medium and high-grade furniture, and its line stands high in the opinion of expert furniture buyers.



SACHSE'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF BALTIMORE
- 1869 (1 of 12 sections)
Courtesy of Peale Museum

Paragon Flour Mill B-4119



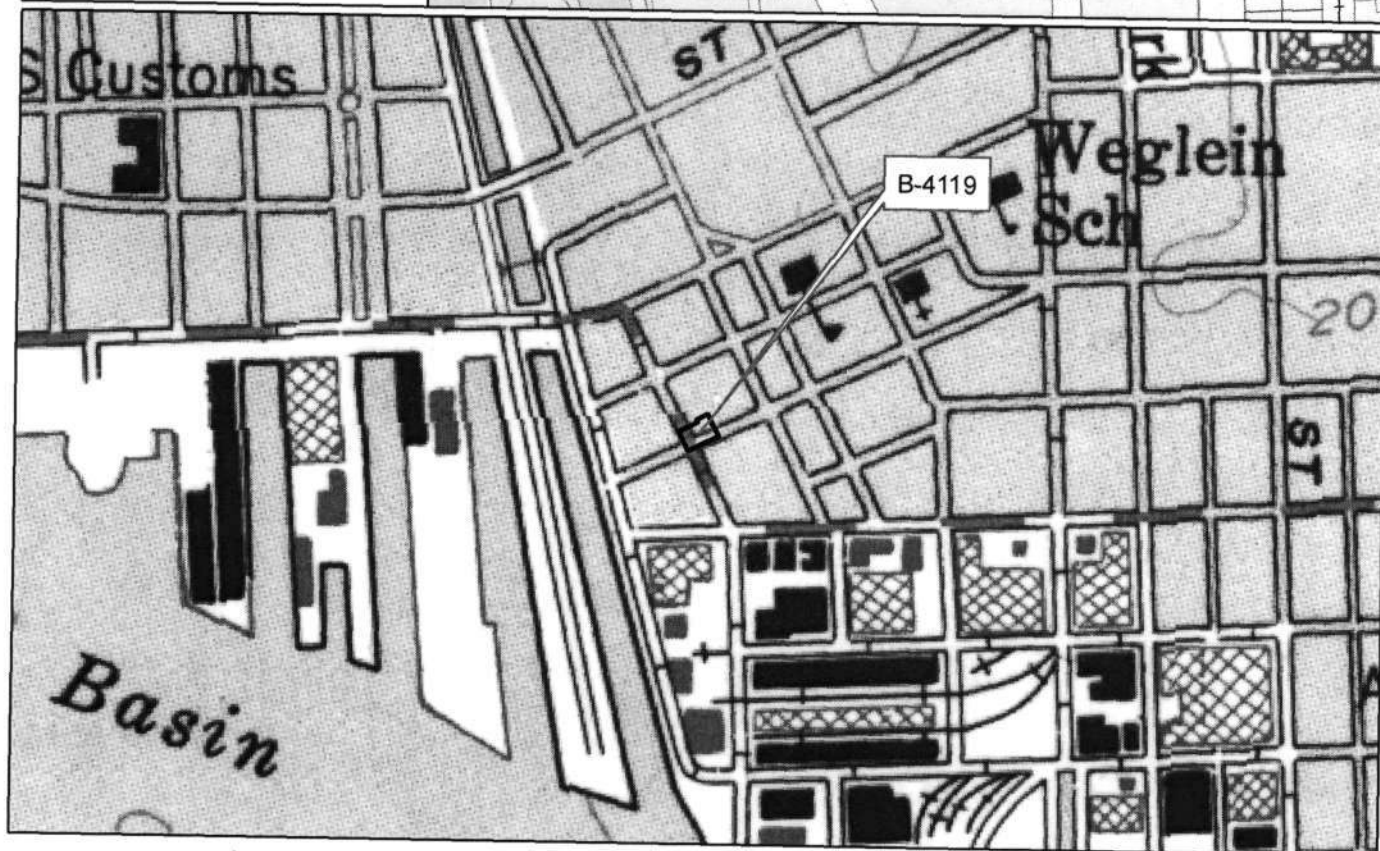
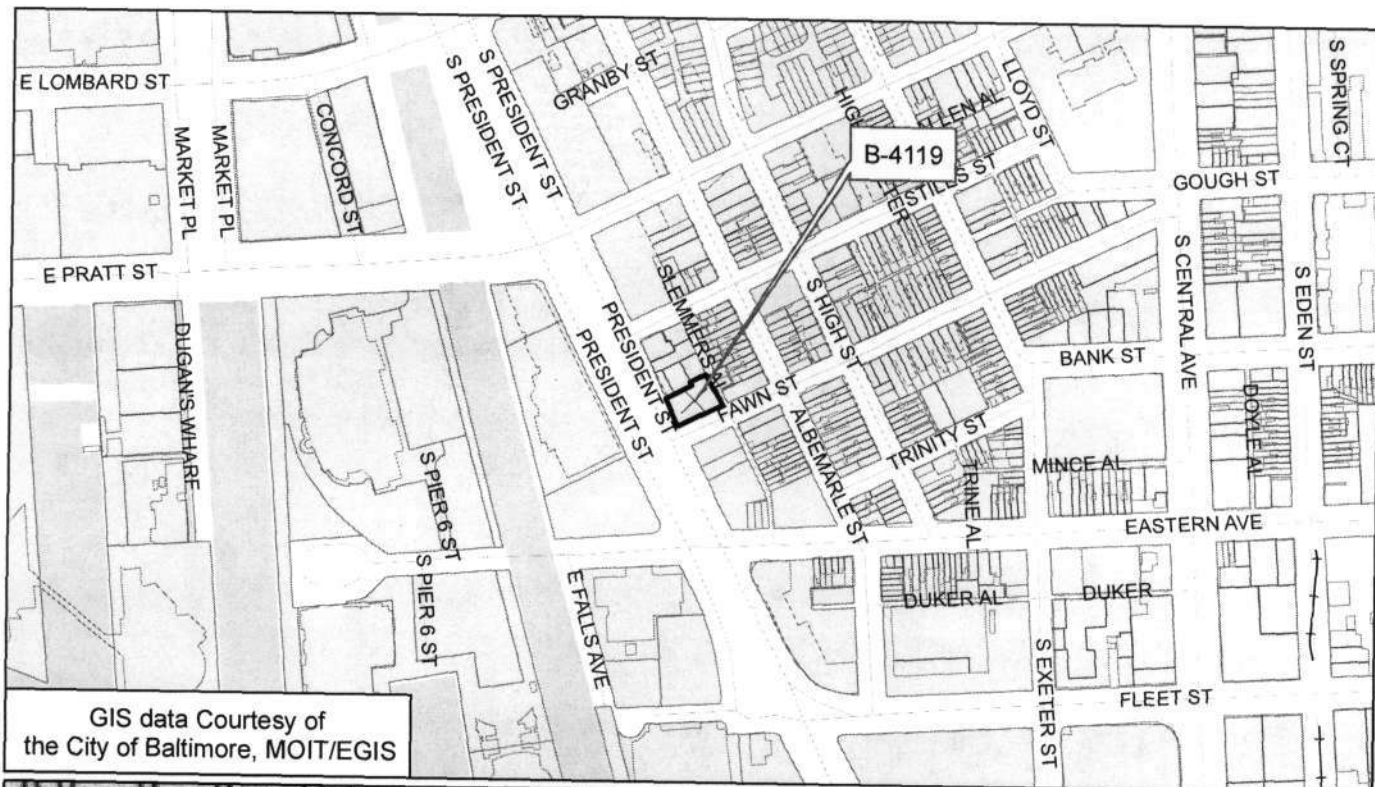
Detail of Sachse's Bird's-Eye View
of Baltimore - 1869
Courtesy of Peale Museum

Paragon Flour Mill

B 4119

B-4119
Paragon Flour Mills
800 Fawn Street
Block 1412 Lot 014
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

Demolished



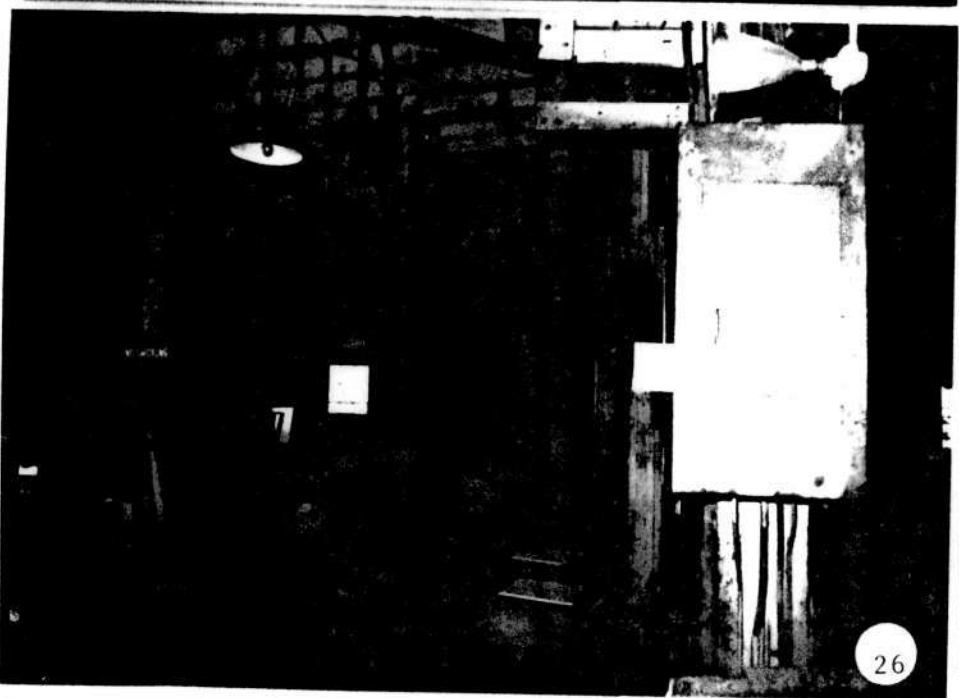
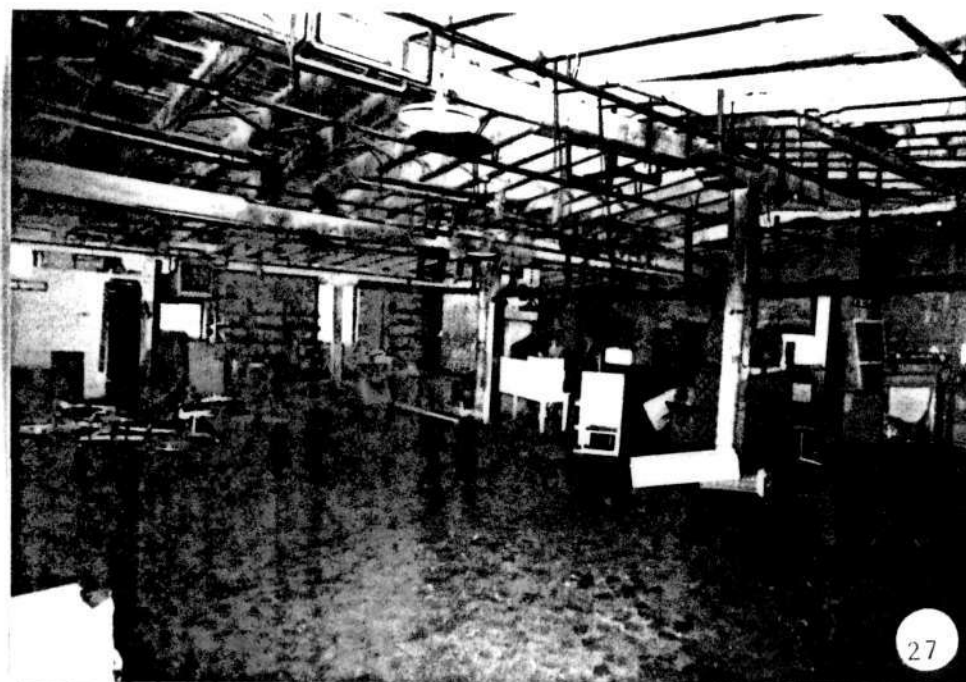
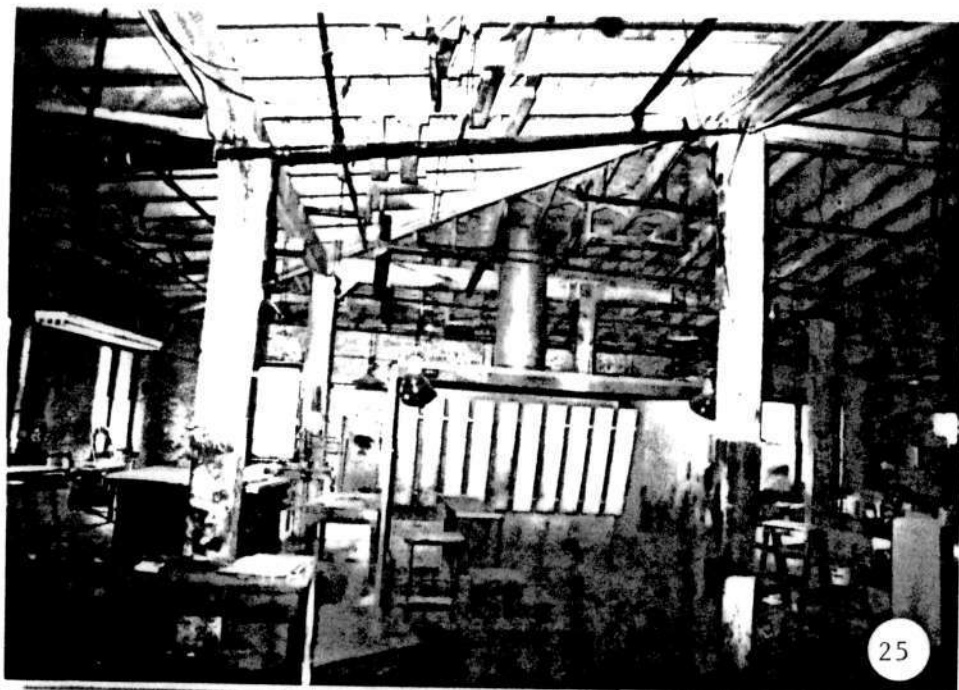


B-4119

FAWN STREET 5-7-86

29

- Level 5 - Looking North from elevator -



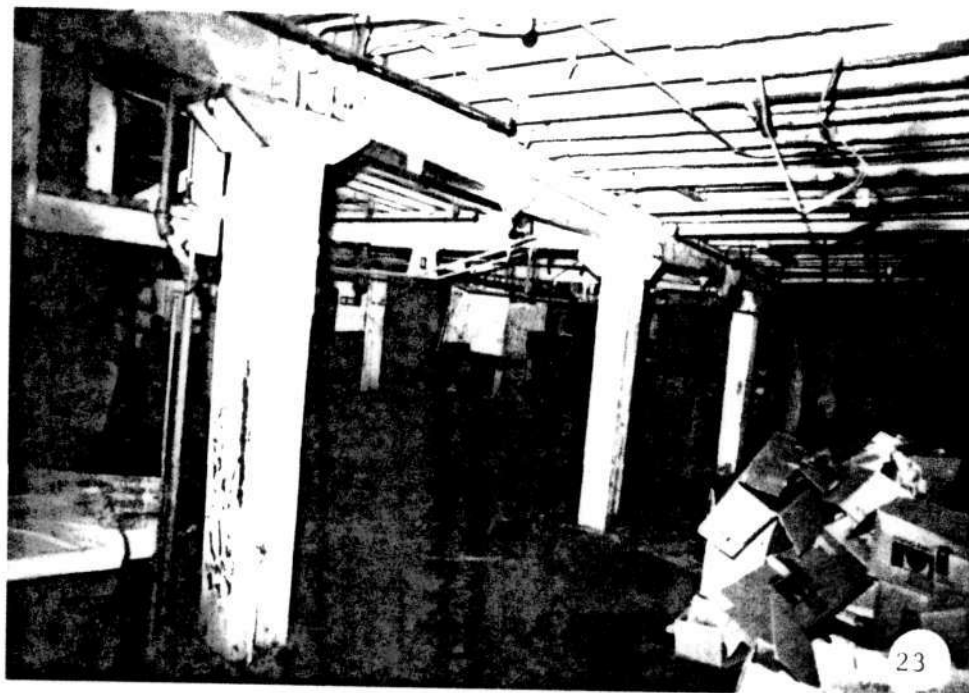
B-4119

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 25
- Level 5 - Looking west from elevator -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 27
- Level 5 - Looking Northeast from elevator -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 26
- Level 5 - Looking North -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 28
- Level 5 - Looking Southeast toward elevator -



B-4119

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- Level 4 - Looking Southwest from
elevator

21 -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- Level 4 - Looking Northeast from
elevator

23 -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- Level 4 - Looking Northwest from
elevator

22 -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- Level 4 - Looking Southeast past
elevator

24 -



B-4119

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 17-
- Level 2 - Looking East from elevator -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 18
- Level 3 - Looking west from elevator -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 19
- Level 3 - Looking Northwest from
elevator -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 20
- Level 3 - Looking Northeast from
elevator -



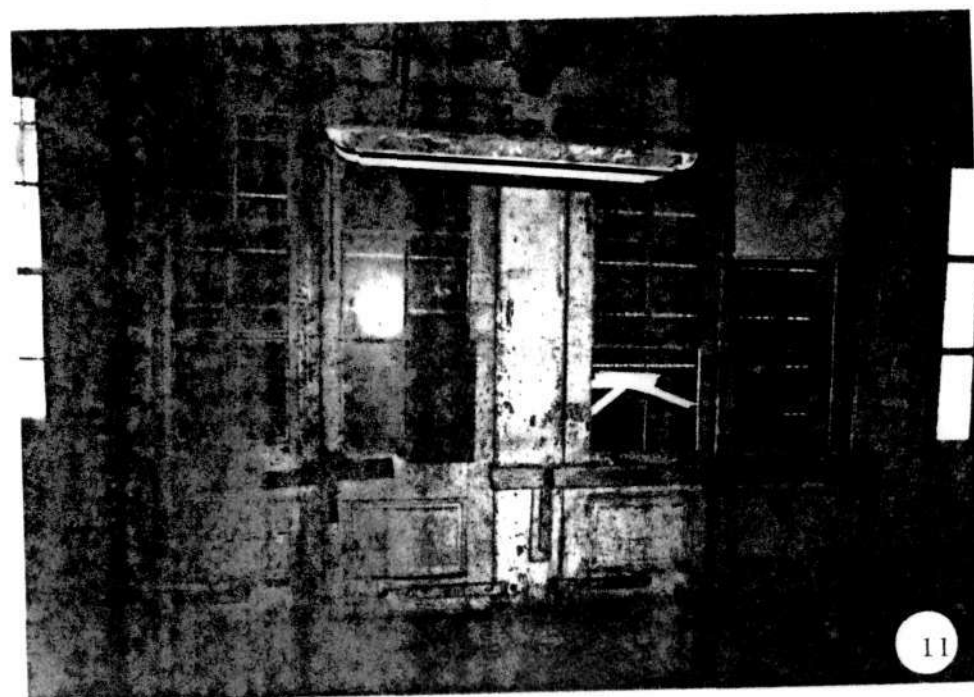
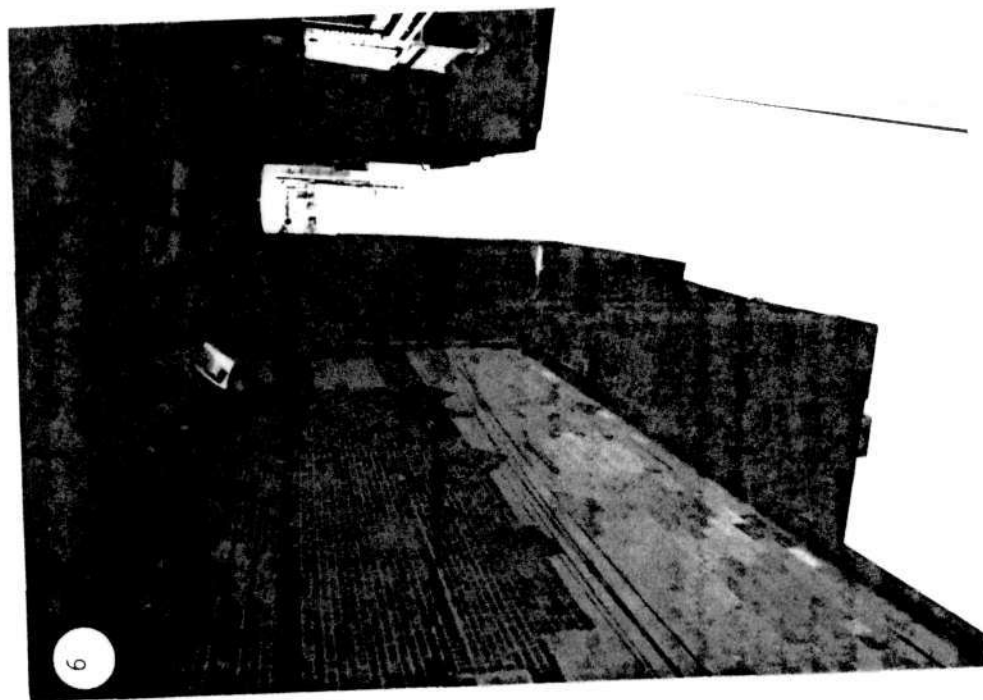
B-4119

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 13
- Level 1 - Elevator looking west -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 15
- Level 2 - Looking west from elevator -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 14
- Level 1 - Looking North -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 16
- Level 2 - Looking North from elevator -



B-4119

!
.
.

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 9 -
- Looking South on Slemmers Alley

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 11 -
- Interior of Fawn Street doors in
granite store front

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 10 -
- Level 1 - Southwest corner looking
Northeast

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 12 -
- Level 1 - looking Northeast from
elevator



B-4119

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- iew to Northwest

5

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- Detail of granite store front

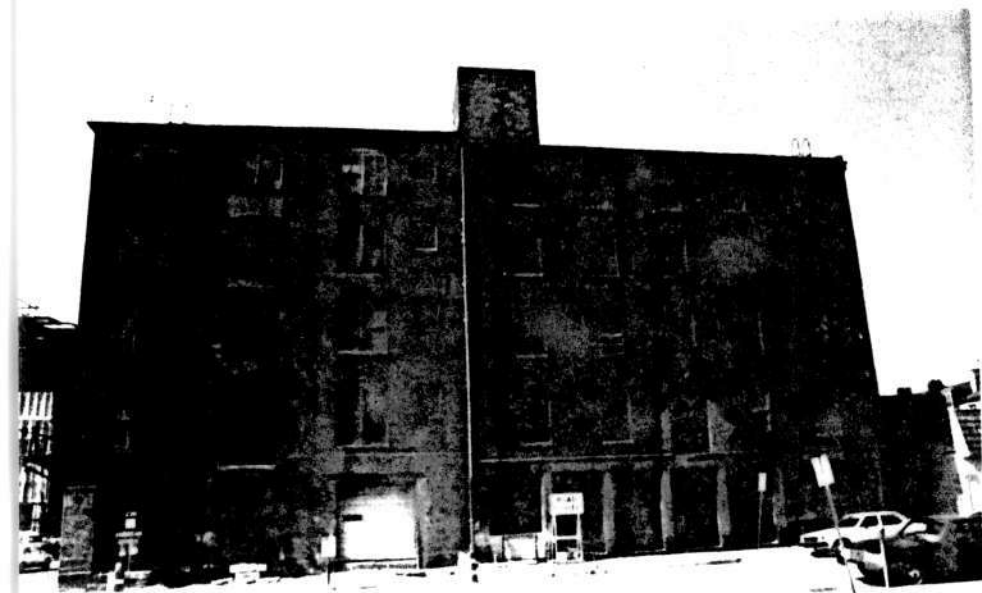
7

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- Detail of granite store front

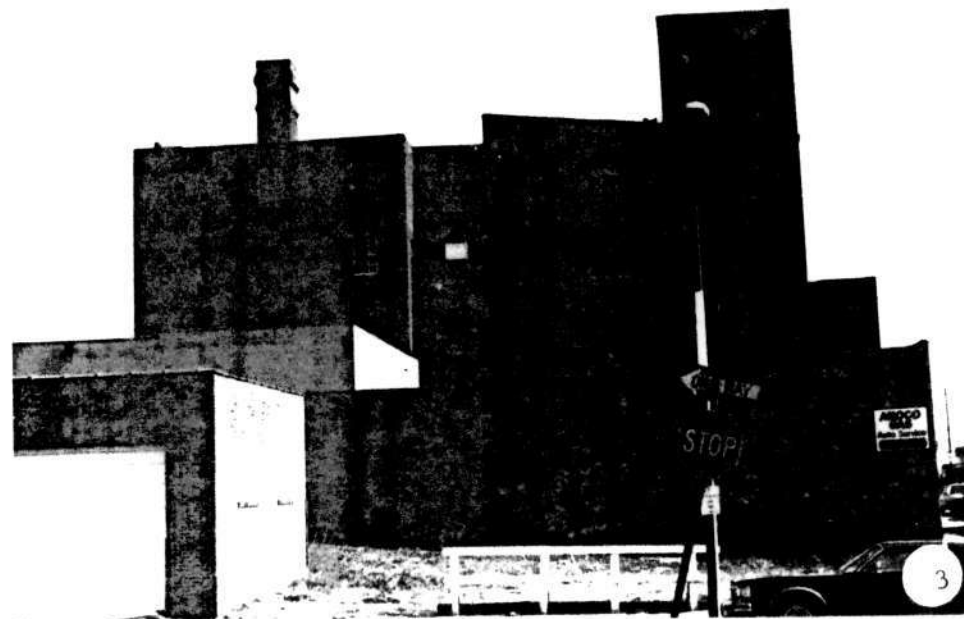
6

FAWN STREET 5-7-86
- Corner of Fawn and President Streets

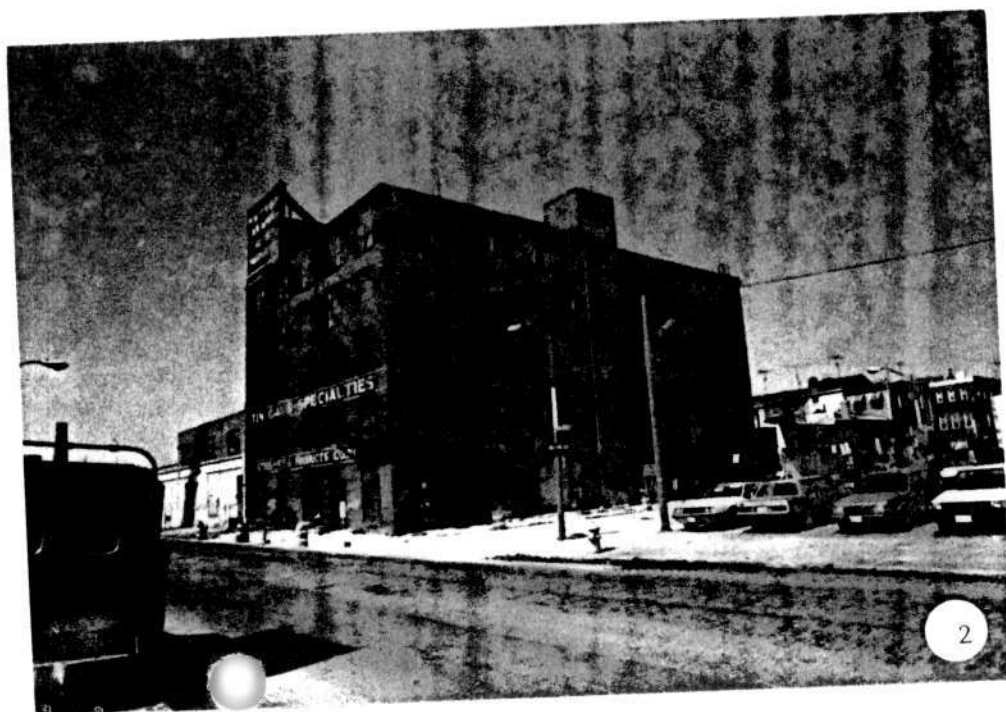
8



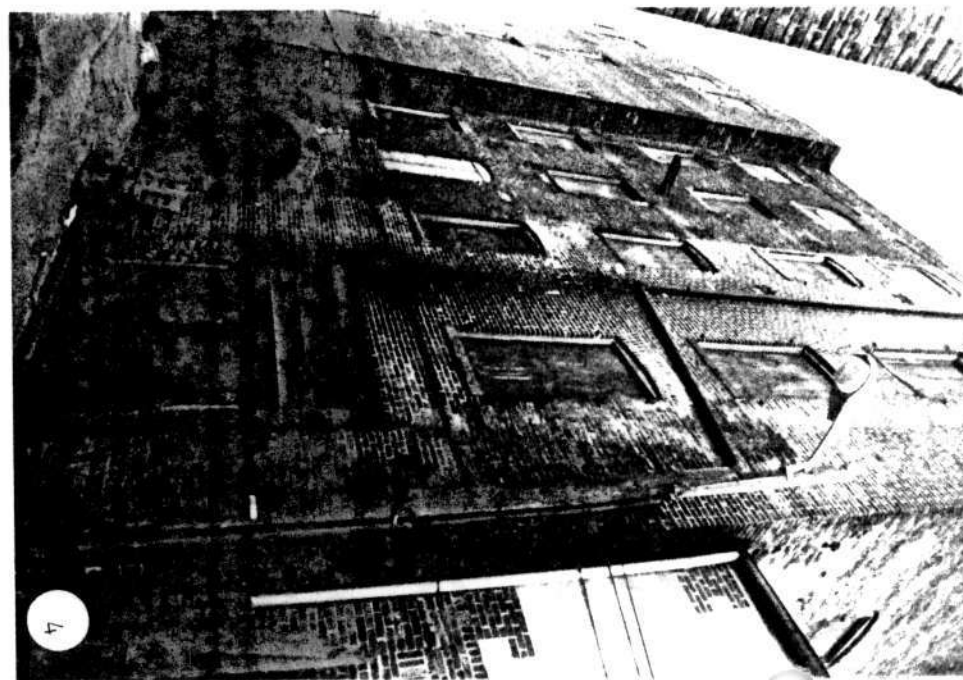
1



3



2



4

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 1
- Elevator (NOTE: roof deck will not be visible) -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 3
- North elevation -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 2
- View looking N.E. (NOTE: roof deck will not be visible) -

FAWN STREET 5-7-86 4
- Slemmers Alley elevator -

6/11/7-8

B-4119

Survey file



Maryland Historical Trust

June 1986

Mr. Edward M. Hord
Hord, Coplan, and Macht, Inc.
2526 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Re: Paragon Flour Mill
800 Fawn Street
Baltimore

*original materials
returned to
Hord*

Dear Mr. Hord:

Based on the information provided in the Part I, I can not be encouraging concerning listing the Paragon Flour Mill in the National Register of Historic Places. The building appears to have marginal architectural and historical significance. The strongest significance appears to be the historic association with the flour industry, an important aspect of Baltimore's past. The building may also be important as an example of a unique type of mill structure for Baltimore, steam powered rather than water powered. My primary concern is with the integrity of the building which appears to have been greatly compromised by alterations made after the structure ceased being used as a flour mill. Significance of the later occupants of the building is not demonstrated. It is possible that with further research and analysis, you may be able to present a convincing argument for listing.

Should you want to continue to pursue National Register listing, I suggest beginning with looking in further depth at the flour industry in Baltimore and placing the Paragon Flour Mill into that context. Next you need to address the integrity issue. Start by defining how the building appeared while it was a flour mill, noting the physical characteristics, and then assessing the structure in its present condition. Are the important characteristics still evident? Can one look at the building and be able to understand the flour mill process?

If the building is an example of a unique type of mill structure for Baltimore, you will need to define, again, the features of this type of mill, how many might have been built and how many still stand, compare and contrast the Paragon Flour Mill with these. The same approach of definition and comparison should be used for evaluating the later uses and even its possible significance as a remnant of a neighborhood. You may want to contact Dennis Zembala or Anne Steele of the Baltimore Industrial Museum for advice and guidance on evaluating the significance of this building.

B-4119

Mr. Edward Hord
June 2, 1986
Page Two

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions in this matter. Please let me know what you decide concerning nomination. Without additional historical and contextural data, however, the Trust can not recommend nomination or Part I certification.

Respectfully,



Ronald L. Andrews
National Register Administrator

✓
RLA/pc

cc: Mr. John C. Gleason
Mrs. Walter E. Black, Jr.
Mr. James E. Lewis
Mr. David Carroll
Mr. Joseph M. Coale III

Enclosure